## DATA UTILIZATION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. System reform is about decisions: Decision points, the possible decisions to be made at those point, and knowing who has the authority to make those decisions. Only when the decision points, possible outcomes, and decision makers are identified can JDAI-Indianapolis begin to gather the necessary baseline data on how the judicial decision process affects groups of youth.
- 2. Data analysis requires careful focus upon those issues that are related to pretrial detention.
- 3. Policies, protocols, and programs require valid data, as well as the personnel competent to produce and analyze reports.
- 4. Adequate tools, sufficient training and personnel are necessary requisites for an information system to track system reforms in juvenile justice.
- 5. Developing an information system is an evolutionary process, predicated upon continuous improvement.